

inhabitant of plains or areas of moderate elevation which explains its absence from the adjoining Khasi Hills where it has not so far been heard or seen.

The home of this lizard appears to be Garo Hills, Burma and Thailand. Insular distribution in Taiwan, Lan Tao, Cebu, Sumba, Jarak and Andaman Islands are all probably due to their accidental introduction probably on ships as it is so in Singapore and Calcutta.

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[Since the preparation of this manuscript another example of *Gekko gekko* has been collected from Lakhipur, caught from a crevice on the stem of a banyan tree. Lakhipur is about 30 km from Darugiri (Garo Hills) and is in the Goalpara District very near to its boundary with Garo Hills District. This specimen is smaller (total length 216 mm) and exhibits a few variations in minor details (upper labials 14 on the right and 15 on the left, lower labials 12 on the right and 13 on the left; 18 lamellae under the fourth toe). This example which was not heard calling turned out to be a female on dissection. The stomach contents did not add any new items to the food of this lizard. On enquiry it was gathered that *To-khoe* is not as common as it is in the Garo Hills.]

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13. ON A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *GATERIN* FORSKÅL, 1775 (PISCES: GATERINIDAE) FROM THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS

(With a text-figure)

In a collection of fishes from Port Blair (Andaman Islands) collected by Dr. H. C. Ray during 1952, a specimen of an undescribed species of the genus *Gaterin* Forskal, 1775, was discovered. This

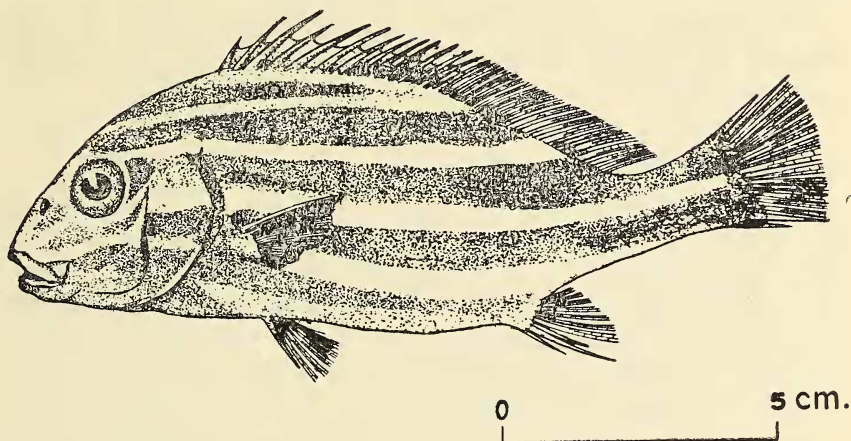
new species of *Gaterin*, named after the collector, is described here and its affinities discussed.

***Gaterin rayi* sp. nov.**

DESCRIPTION:

D XIV.20; A III.7; P 2,15; V. I.5.

Gillrakers on the first arch 8+20, stout.



Lateral view of the holotype of *Gaterin rayi* sp. nov.

Body deeply ovoid, moderately compressed, depth 2.8 in standard length. Head length 3.2 in standard length; eye diameter 2.9 in head length, nearly equals snout and half in interorbital width. Mouth moderate, slightly oblique, lower jaw shorter than upper, maxillary reaching vertical from front border of eye. Preopercle rectangular serrate. Chin with three pairs of distinct pores.

Teeth—villiform, subequal in both jaws; vomer and palatines also with small villiform teeth, tongue edentate.

Scales—small, ctenoid, extending to front border of eye; snout naked. Bases of vertical fins scaly. Lateral line tubules 68.

Fins—Dorsal scarcely notched, spines moderate, third spine longest, second anal spine strong, longer than third spine, shorter than soft anal rays. Caudal truncate.

Colour in alcohol—Light brown with five longitudinal narrow white bands; first band beginning in the median line on nape to basal part of spinous dorsal, the second from snout above eye to soft dorsal,

the third from eye to soft dorsal, the fourth from below eye to end of caudal, and the fifth through pectoral axil to lower part of caudal base. Caudal fin dotted with brown spots.

MATERIAL :

Holotype : a fish 126 mm in standard length; Aberdeen Bay, Port Blair (Andaman Islands); Coll. H. C. Ray; 24th March, 1952; Zoological Survey of India, Regd. No. F 6279/2.

Measurements :

Total length 154 mm; standard length 126 mm; depth of body 45 mm; head length 39 mm; eye diameter 13.5 mm; and snout length 14.0 mm.

Relationship :

The new species agrees fairly well with *Gaterin gaterinoides* Smith, 1962 except in the dorsal fin formula (XIV. 20 vs. XIII. 20). Smith (1962) observed the dorsal spine number in the various species of *Gaterin* as fairly constant and stressed its importance as a taxonomic character in the family Gaterinidae. Only four species of this genus are known to have the dorsal fin with 14 spines namely, *G. nigrus* (Cuvier & Valenciennes, 1830), *G. paulavi* (Steindachner, 1895), *G. plagiodesmus* (Fowler, 1935) and *G. ceylonensis* (Smith, 1956) (*vide* Day, 1875; Weber & de Beaufort, 1946; Munro, 1955; and Smith, 1962). The new species may be distinguished from the former three species in the dorsal fin formula (D XIV. 20 vs. D XIV. 15-16) and from *G. ceylonensis* Smith in having horizontal cross stripes (*versus* uniformly dark) on the body.

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